

AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE VIRTUAL

Privacy Policy

Effective Date: 26 May 2026

Version 1.0

DISCLAIMER: Australian Border Force Virtual (ABF Virtual) is a fictional virtual organisation created for use within the VATSIM network and flight simulation community. It has no affiliation with, nor is it endorsed by, the Australian Border Force or the Australian Government. References to ABF operations, callsigns, and procedures are for simulation purposes only.

1. Introduction

ABF Virtual is committed to protecting the privacy of its members. This Privacy Policy explains how we collect, use, store, and protect your personal information when you register for and use the ABF Virtual ACARS system and associated services.

By registering as a member of ABF Virtual, you agree to the collection and use of information in accordance with this policy.

2. Who We Are

ABF Virtual is a volunteer-operated virtual organisation operating within the VATSIM (Virtual Air Traffic Simulation Network) environment. Our ACARS (Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System) platform is a web-based application used to manage virtual flight operations, pilot records, and fleet management.

For privacy inquiries, contact the ABF Virtual administration team via the official VATSIM messaging system or through our registered channels.

3. Information We Collect

3.1 Information You Provide

When you register and use the ABF Virtual ACARS system, we may collect the following:

- Full name or preferred display name
- VATSIM CID (Certificate/Identification Number)
- Pilot callsign (e.g. ABFV001)
- Email address (if provided during registration)
- PIN credentials used to authenticate into the ACARS system

- PIREP (Pilot Report) data including flight details, aircraft used, departure/arrival airports, flight duration, and route information

3.2 Information Collected Automatically

Our system may also collect:

- Login timestamps and session activity
- Aircraft locking and release events
- Flight hours and activity logs associated with your pilot profile
- Administrative actions taken on your account

4. How We Use Your Information

We use the information collected for the following purposes:

- To create and manage your pilot profile within the ABF Virtual ACARS system
- To authenticate your identity when you log in using your VATSIM CID and PIN
- To record and display your virtual flight activity (PIREPs, hours, aircraft usage)
- To manage the ABF Virtual fleet, including aircraft locking and availability
- To communicate with you regarding operational updates, events, or administrative matters
- To maintain records for internal administration and operational continuity
- To improve and develop our systems and services

5. Data Storage and Security

5.1 Where Data Is Stored

All member data is stored within our Supabase-hosted database infrastructure. The ABF Virtual ACARS web application is hosted on Netlify. Both platforms employ industry-standard security measures.

5.2 Security Measures

We take reasonable steps to protect your personal information, including:

- PIN-based authentication to prevent unauthorised access to pilot accounts
- Role-based access controls separating pilot and administrator permissions
- Use of HTTPS encryption for all data transmitted between your browser and our systems
- Database access restricted to authorised administrators only

However, no method of electronic transmission or storage is 100% secure. While we strive to protect your information, we cannot guarantee absolute security.

6. Sharing of Information

ABF Virtual does not sell, trade, or rent your personal information to third parties. We may share limited information in the following circumstances:

- With VATSIM, to the extent necessary to verify membership or report conduct in accordance with VATSIM policies
- With other ABF Virtual administrators for the purpose of managing the organisation
- Where required by applicable law or to protect the rights and safety of the organisation or its members

Pilot names, callsigns, VATSIM CIDs, and flight activity records may be visible to other registered ABF Virtual members within the ACARS system as part of normal operations (e.g. pilot rosters, fleet status boards).

7. Data Retention

We retain your personal information for as long as your membership with ABF Virtual is active. If you request removal from the organisation, we will delete or anonymise your personal data within a reasonable timeframe, except where retention is required for legitimate operational or administrative purposes.

PIREP and flight log records may be retained in aggregate or anonymised form for historical records even after account deletion.

8. Your Rights

As a member of ABF Virtual, you have the right to:

- Access the personal information we hold about you
- Request correction of inaccurate or outdated information
- Request deletion of your account and associated personal data
- Withdraw from ABF Virtual at any time

To exercise any of these rights, contact an ABF Virtual administrator via official channels. We will respond to requests within a reasonable timeframe.

9. VATSIM Integration

ABF Virtual operates within the VATSIM network. Your VATSIM CID is used as a unique identifier within our system. Use of the VATSIM network is subject to the VATSIM Privacy Policy and Code of Conduct, which are separate from this policy.

ABF Virtual is not responsible for data handling by VATSIM or any other third-party platform.

10. Children's Privacy

ABF Virtual does not knowingly collect personal information from individuals under the age of 13. If you are under 13, please do not register without parental consent. If we become aware that we have collected data from a minor without appropriate consent, we will take steps to delete that information.

11. Changes to This Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy from time to time. Members will be notified of significant changes via official ABF Virtual channels. Continued use of the ACARS system following notification of changes constitutes acceptance of the updated policy.

The effective date at the top of this document indicates when the policy was last revised.

12. Contact

For any questions, concerns, or requests regarding this Privacy Policy or your personal data, please contact the ABF Virtual administration team through the official VATSIM messaging system or via our registered communication channels.

Australian Border Force Virtual

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